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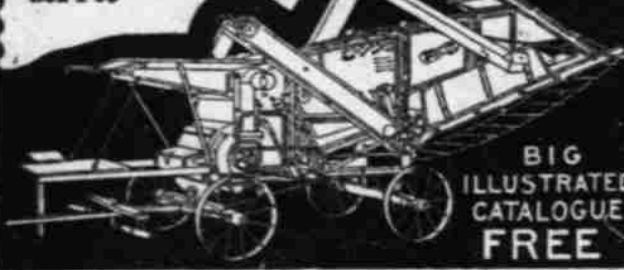
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THE WINTER COURSE IN AGRICULTURE.

A Cleveland County Student Tells of the Work and the Benefit and Inspiration He Received.

Messrs. Editors: As I have been a silent reader for quite a while, I will now try to tell you what I have been doing. I was attending the Winter Course at the North Carolina A. & M. College, about which I wish to give you all a few notes.

The question is often asked, "Will it pay to take a course in agriculture?" Every young man must decide this for himself. The farmer, like the man in any other industry, cannot know too much about his business. The short course at the A. & M. does not offer as thorough a training as the two or four year courses, but it is of great value. The course consisted of both class-room and laboratory work. In the class-room a theoretical study was made of various subjects, such as the soil, its formation, the different kinds of soils; the kinds of food elements that are necessary to produce plants; the amounts of plant foods found in the soil from various parts of the State; the way in which the mechanical and chemical condition of the soil may be improved; the length of time the soil will last under present methods of continuous cropping without rotation, and the returning of plant food in the form of manure or fertilizers.

The subject of farm crops and the different systems of rotation were thoroughly discussed. A complete study was made of the different cereals, grasses and legumes, and the soil to which each was adapted. The production of better seed, especially corn, by selection, breeding and cultivating was also dealt with.

Good instruction was also received on the subject of fruit and vegetable culture. Some of the things touched on were: How the farmer may graft and grow his own fruit trees; when, where and how to plant; pruning, spraying, cultivating and the harvesting, packing and shipping of fruit. We learned both the beneficial and injurious insects, and how to deal with the injurious ones. Some time was devoted to poultry raising, instruction being given in the construction of houses and yards, the handling of chicks from hatching time to maturity, the feeding chickens and turkeys at all ages, the prevention of poultry diseases, and the breeding of poultry.

Practical suggestions were given as to the building and location of farm buildings for convenience and sanitation.

In the laboratory, experiments were performed with the soils to determine the power of different soils to retain water and dissolve fertilizers; the rate of water rising by capillary attraction; the effect of mulches; the humus, and other experiments of like nature. Other exercises were in the dairy, testing and separation of milk, making of butter and cheese, and other things too tedious to mention.

Two hours each week were also given in the forge shop.

These are only a very few of the things that may be had by taking the winter course. I think that every man who is going to farm should take a course in an Agricultural College, either a winter course or a two or four year course. I never realized what value it was to me until I got back home. Now I can look out over the country and see so many farmers that are farming in the old way, and I can see so many farms that are needing improving.

The people here are not making

much reduction in the acreage of cotton.

I don't think that there is any better agricultural paper in the land than The Progressive Farmer. I think that no farmer should do without it.

Yours for better farming,

JOHN M. KESTER.
Cleveland Co., N. C.

HOW WEATHER PREDICTIONS ARE MADE.

An Explanation of the Principles on Which Forecasts are Based.

In the January World's Work there is a very clear description of the methods and principles involved in making the weather forecasts issued daily by the United States government.

Not the least valuable assistance the Government renders mariners and farmers is furnished in its weather forecasts, four-fifths of which turn out to be correct. Indeed the record of the weather bureau for the past five years has been that no serious storm has occurred that has not been predicted sufficiently long in advance for all people whose interests are affected by the weather, to take due precautions. Daily at eight o'clock in the morning and at eight o'clock in the evening by Eastern time, observers at more than two hundred stations in the United States, Northern Mexico, Southern Canada, and the West Indies telegraph to making-making stations observations on every detail of the weather, such as temperature, humidity, the kind and the direction of clouds and so on. At each of these stations charts made from the information in the reports are prepared for free distribution over the adjoining district. In many places in the West the weather forecast is telephoned from central telephone stations to all the farmers in the neighborhood.

The approximate accuracy of the forecasts results from the fact that the Government observers know how the weather conditions move. Seventenths of our storms, for example, begin in the Northwest, move southeast and then curve north again over the Great Lakes and disappear to the east down the St. Lawrence Valley, though the West India hurricanes move first west and then northeast. The storms are located by low barometric readings and by the direction of the winds—which whirl about a storm-centre in the opposite dierection to that of moving clock hands, sometimes spinning around a circle a thousand miles in diameter. To the east of the storm blow southerly moist winds which bring rain. To the west of the storm come winds from west or northwest bringing colder weather. So by experience the weather observers, receiving reports of the conditions at storm-centres, can predict from the rapidity of the movement from west to east how far a storm will advance in twelve or twenty-four hours and what kind of weather will result in every quarter of it. Predictions can thus be made two or three days in advance. And now the Government is building on Mount Weather, Va., an observatory for weather research. Efforts will be made there to establish forecasts of whole seasons.

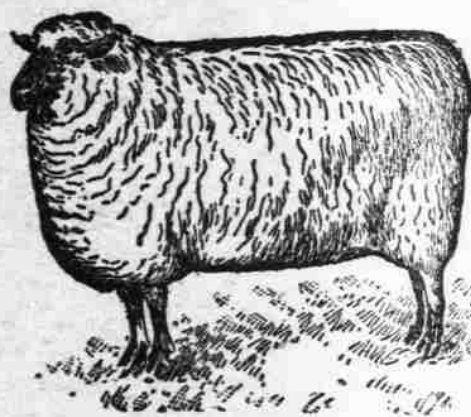
When boils begin or pimples appear on the face, it is proof that the blood is trying to throw off through the skin the impurities. You will find Vick's Tar Heel Sarsaparilla a pleasant, sure relief in such cases. It directs the impurities through the proper channels. Full size dollar bottle for fifty cents at druggists.

[Adv.]

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